

Leicester, Apr. 26/61.

Dear Burleigh;

You will have probably learned from other sources before you receive this, that the Ann^l. Meetg. of the Amⁿ. Socy. (announced for May 7.) is post-poned. Of course it cannot now be told when it will be even likely to be held. All depends on the state of the country & of public affairs. Nor is it by any means certain that the N. Eng. Convention will be held at the usual time, tho' we hope it may be, - and that then, or certainly at no very remote time, the little Company, who went forth weeping, bearing precious seed, shall come again with rejoicing

bearing their sheaves with them! I
do wish to live to see that day. And
now, - if only the North will continue
firm, united, prompt, - I do believe
the Kingdom of Heaven draweth nigh, -
that it is even at the doors. - Very
likely, at first, defeats and losses may
attend us; the Slave Crew, drunk with
what they deem their success (!) at the
Sumpter, and their wonderful prowess,
will be likely to make their most
desperate efforts first. But we must
crush them with our legions, and with the
mountainous weight of our good Cause.

But the Report, - for these times
make that more vitally interesting and
necessary than ever. Lose not a jot of

faith or courage, but keep on in
this labour, until you bring us as a
band, before the world, abreast of the
times, - in our published, as in our
actual, history.

Of course the postponement of the Am.
Meetg. will give you the opp^o. to do, what
otherwise had ceased to be possible - (tho'
you yourself have never hinted any doubts
of its possibility to me) - viz. to finish the
Report, down to May 1. 1861, (a consumman-
tion devoutly to be wished) in season for the }
annual Meeting. }

(1). Please tell me - Is there a chance
that the Report, to said time, may be
ready for the N. England Convention, pro-
vided it be held? The last copy must be
in printer's hands, to that end, by May 19th at night.
The doubt which now hangs over the time

of holding the N. E. Court, is such, that
I do not advise any especial effort to
get it ready for that meetg.; yet it is
possible (not very likely, in my judgment)
that it may be in y^r. power to complete
it then.

(2) One more question: Supposing it
(the Report) not to be in readiness for the
N. E. Court, if that be held at usual time,
when do you think it probable it can
be completed? Not expecting that you
can name any particular day for such
completion, you can probably form some
estimate of the time yet wanted for the
work, and so approximate the day.

Please give me early reply, addressed
to me in Boston, 221 Wash. St.

Very truly, & hopefully, Yrs. J. May Jr